

§ 1291.3

(b) *Application* means the application for Specialty Crop Block Grant Program—Farm Bill.

(c) *Enhancing the competitiveness* of specialty crops means, but is not limited to: Research, food safety, food security, plant health programs, education, nutrition, trade enhancement, promotion, marketing, “buy local” programs, increased consumption, increased innovation, improved efficiency and reduced costs of distribution systems, environmental concerns and conservation, product development, and developing cooperatives.

(d) *Grant period* means the period of time from when the grant agreement is signed to the completion of all SCBGP-FB projects submitted in the State plan.

(e) *Grantee* means the government to which a grant is awarded and which is accountable for the use of the funds provided. The grantee is the entire legal entity even if only a particular component of the entity is designated in the grant agreement.

(f) *Indirect costs* means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective, and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved.

(g) *Outcome measure* means an event or condition that is external to the project and that is of direct importance to the intended beneficiaries and/or the public.

(h) *Project* means all proposed activities to be funded by the SCBGP-FB.

(i) *Specialty crop* means fruit and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture).

(j) *State* means the fifty States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(k) *State department of agriculture* means the agency, commission, or department of a State government responsible for agriculture within the State.

(l) *Subgrantee* means the government or other legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and which is ac-

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countable to the grantee for the use of funds provided.

§ 1291.3 Eligible grant applicants.

Eligible grant applicants are State departments of agriculture from the fifty states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

§ 1291.4 Eligible grant project.

(a) To be eligible for a grant, the project(s) must enhance the competitiveness of U.S. grown or U.S. territory grown eligible specialty crops, in either domestic or foreign markets.

(b) To be eligible for a grant, the project(s) must be completed within three calendar years after the grant agreement prescribed in § 1291.8 of this part is signed. The grant period is established by the longest approved project submitted in the State plan. However, for cause, an extension of the grant period not to exceed three years may be granted by AMS on a case by case basis with a written request from the State.

(c) Projects should benefit the specialty crop industry and/or the public rather than a single organization, institution, individual, or commercial product. Single organizations, institutions, and individuals are eligible to participate as project partners.

(d) Multi-state projects that address solutions to problems that cross state boundaries are eligible.

§ 1291.5 Restrictions and limitations on grant funds.

(a) Grant funds may not be used to fund political activities in accordance with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 1501–1508 and 7321–7326).

(b) Development or participation in lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352 including costs of membership in organizations substantially engaged in lobbying are unallowable.

(c) Grant funds shall supplement the expenditure of State funds in support of specialty crops grown in that State, rather than replace State funds.

(d) Grantees and subgrantees must comply with 7 CFR Part 3015.